



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**  
growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

5 October 2025

Pentecost 17

### Bible Readings



**Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4**  
**Luke 17: 5-10**

#### Response after Bible Readings

**Leader:** In this we hear the word of God

**Response:** Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.

Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.  
Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.  
**OPEN FROM 9AM**

17th Sunday

After

Pentecost



twitch.tv

**Livestreaming at**  
**8am and 9.30am only**

**DAYLIGHT**  
**Saving Starts**



#### 8am—Worship

Includes communion  
Led by Jon Humphries

#### 9.30am—Worship

Includes communion  
Led by Jon Humphries  
Followed by morning tea

**KUCA** in Recess

**4pm—Upstairs hall in use**

#### 6.45pm—Worship

Includes communion  
Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

### What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

#### MONDAY 6 OCTOBER

**Public Holiday**

**7.30pm—Christian Meditation**

#### TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER

**9am-2pm—Op Shop open**

**9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation**

community room and church

**11.30am—Care & Prayer**

Community room & church

#### WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER

**9am-2pm—Op Shop open**

**9am-12pm—Women's Fellowship**

upstairs hall & church

#### THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

**9am-2pm—Op Shop open**

#### FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

**No Scheduled Activities**

#### SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

**No Scheduled Activities**

### SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

**8am—Worship**

**9am—Worship @ the Willow's**

**9.30am—Worship**  
Followed by morning tea

**KUCA** in Recess for School holidays

**6.45pm—Worship**  
Community meal



18th

Sunday

After

Pentecost

#### MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: [jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

[jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au)

#### PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND

SUNDAY am, MONDAY, TUESDAY

Email: [saraw@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:saraw@nswact.uca.org.au)

#### CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 8AM-2.30PM

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

**OFFICE :**

9686 3003

Email: [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD

Email: [mikeu@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:mikeu@nswact.uca.org.au)

#### CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

HELEN OLLEY

Email: [helen.olley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:helen.olley@optusnet.com.au)

#### LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS

BAULKHAM HILLS

#### POSTAL ADDRESS:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH

PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

**WEB SITE:** [www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

Weekly newsletter available on website

#### FACEBOOK:

[@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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# Something to think about

## 5 October

### Pentecost 17

#### Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Lamentations 1:1-6

Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

## The Name of God

What's a name? A name is a label to differentiate us from others. Given that many of us share the same first name, we have developed the idea of surnames or family names which are also called last names. We have not always had them. Contrary to what some people assume, Jesus didn't have a surname. That wasn't part of the culture back then. He was known as Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus son of Joseph (Jesus ben Joseph). Sometimes people were named after their trade. So, surnames such as Smith likely meant that there is a blacksmith in the ancestry and Baker – that one is sort of obvious. Jesus was called Jesus, the Christ, because many believe he is the Messiah and Messiah in Greek is Χριστός [Christos/Christ]

Of course, Jesus wasn't actually called "Jesus." If you went back in time and asked people about Jesus, they wouldn't know who you were talking about. Jesus' original name was יֵשׁוּעַ (Yeshua) which was a common Hebrew and Aramaic name meaning "Yahweh saves" or "Saviour." This corresponds to the English name "Joshua". The name evolved into

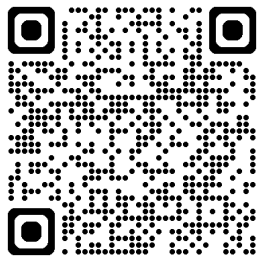
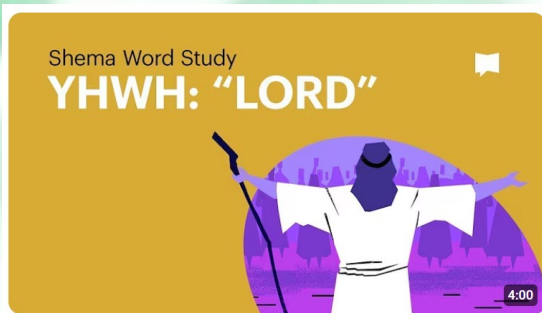
the Greek Ἰησοῦς (Iēsous /Yesous), then the Latin Iesus, and finally into the English "Jesus" over centuries of linguistic and cultural adaptation. We might also remember that the angel announced that Jesus would be called Immanuel which means God is with us, but that may mean that is a title, similar to Christ, rather than a name.

In our lives we come to associate ourselves with our names, but of course they are given to us or chosen by us. They are not essential to our being; other than they are a practical construct to hang our sense of identity on. We are not born with a name, and we could live our lives with a healthy sense of self without having a name to mark ourselves by.

Have you ever wondered why we call God, "God"? Why do we call God by a common noun made into a proper noun? The reality is that God has no name, but we do have a lot of names for God. God does not need a name as there are no other gods (at least it is the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim and other faiths belief that there are no other gods, or there may be gods which are named as gods, but the Christian belief is that they are not real). Moses when given his big task asked God, "Whom shall I tell people who sent me? In other words, he was asking God what God's name was. God answered with a deflection saying, "I am/I will be." This is stating that God is being and has no need of differentiating from anything or anyone else, because God is and is being itself.



The Bible Project has a helpful video about the name/s of God.



### God's Name Has Changed?! (Learn Its Interesting Biblical History)

<https://youtu.be/eLrGM26pmM0?si=yCxS4vh9eLyZBhXz>

God is known by what God replied to Moses, יהוה[YHWH]. These four letters are a theonym (god-name) and is referred to as the Tetragrammaton. The four letters in Hebrew language יהוה are written and read from right to left, are yod, he, vav, and he. The name may be derived from a verb that means 'to be', 'to exist', 'to cause to become', or 'to come to pass'. We don't know how to pronounce this because ancient Hebrew had no written vowels and no one was allowed to say the name. Over the ages people have forgotten how to pronounce it. So, people's best guess is that it is pronounced Yahweh or Jehovah. Like people might address the Prime Minister as 'Prime Minister' or the president of the United States of America as 'President' we end up using just 'God.' We also have other titles for God which include the Hebrew titles Elohim, El-Shaddai, and Adonai, as well as Ancient of Days.

Jesus used the name, אבא[Abba] to refer to God. In Aramaic, the word אבא[Abba] means "Father" and carries a sense of intimacy, familiarity, and trust, similar to how a child might affectionately call their father "daddy" or "papa". It was used by

adults and children to refer to the head of the family. The term appears in the New Testament, where Jesus uses it to pray to God, and Paul uses it to describe believers' relationship with God. While Abba carries the emotional weight of "daddy" or "papa," it's important to note it was also a general term for "father" and not exclusively for children. The New Testament's translation of Abba with the Greek word for "Father" πατήρ [patēr] shows that the term conveys respect and intimacy but is not necessarily a childish term.

Theology is God-words/thoughts. Names for God are a key part of theology. Names have meaning and are also personal. How do you name God? What name/s or titles do you use in your prayer? How did those names come to be part of your spiritual and theological patterns? The nouns/names we use for God and the pronouns we use become sacred to us, but it is good to remember that they are constructs of language and faith culture and not actually who God is. As we seek to better relate to God and give God truer and greater glory, it is good to think about how we name God and what those names mean for us and for others. How does our naming of God connect us to others or cut us off from others? This is a good missional question.

There is a saying, "What's in a name?" The phrase "What's in a name?" comes from William Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' and means that a name is just a label that doesn't define the true essence or quality of a person or thing. So, something that seems as simple as a name, particularly the name of God, becomes something to deeply think about.

*God bless*

*Jon*



# Let's Make a Banner!!

**To Celebrate the 50th Anniversary,** we will be creating a banner which will be hung in the church. Everyone is invited to participate in creating this special reminder of a great celebration of us all still Growing together.

We are asking for help cutting out the letters for the banner.

We have 31 letters to be cut out.

Letter pattern and material is supplied.

Please collect a letter pattern from the hall. Cut out the letter in material and return to the church by

**Sunday 12 October** ready to be put on the banner.

**If you are crafty and want to participate with some extra bits,  
please see Barbara Gibb.**

We are also looking for someone to sew the background of the banner.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone's effort come together hanging in the church in November.

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



Lyn Short  
(from last week)

George Haines

*Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community  
who are celebrating their birthdays this week.*

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

5-11 October



*Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela*

*weekly*  
**SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**  
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For ( 26 September 2025) please see link to  
Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 26 September](#)

## Choir Practice

There will be a Choir practice at  
the church on

**Saturday 22 November  
From 10.30am to 11.30am**

This practice is to prepare for the  
Anniversary service on Sunday 23 November



## Your Help is needed

*50th Anniversary  
celebrations*



*Your help is needed to sort and create power point presentations  
from the many photos that have now been received.*

*Please contact Greg if you can spare some time to help.*



*Please complete the form in the foyer if you know of any past  
St. Matthew's members that we could invite to our celebrations.*

## Afternoon tea help required

The Women's Fellowship ladies will be catering  
for afternoon tea on Sunday 19th October  
following the performances of the Welsh Choir  
and Wesley Trombone Choir which commences at  
2PM.

It would be very much appreciated if there are  
any ladies attending the event who would like to  
bring a small plate of food to assist with the  
catering.

*With Thanks from the Women's Fellowship Catering  
Ministry*

## Willow's Service on 9 November

June Davey is asking for help to play  
the piano at the Willow's service on  
Sunday 9 November at 9am.  
You will be playing traditional Hymn  
tunes.

If you are able to help on this day,  
please contact the church office or  
June Davey.

Thank you



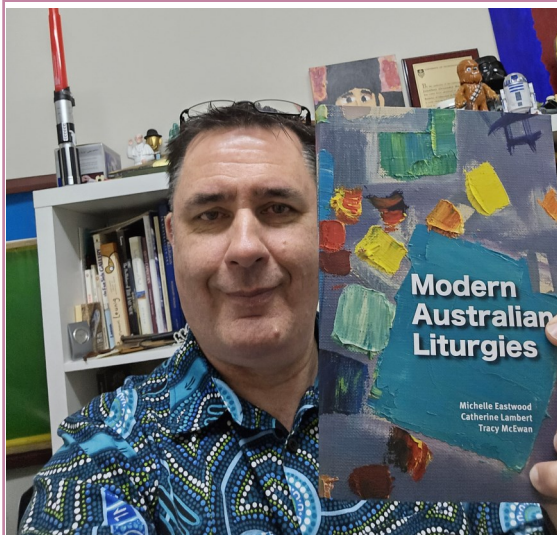
# **BAULKHAM HILLS & WESLEY UNITING CHURCHES**

Present the  
**SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR & THE BONES OF  
CONTENTION [TROMBONE CHOIR]**

Sunday 19 October 2025 @ 2.00pm  
**at St Matthews Uniting Church  
Baulkham Hills**

Adults \$15, Concession \$10

Afternoon tea will be provided after the concert.



Jon has recently had a liturgy published in the collection called "Modern Australian Liturgies." His contribution is called,

'Sticking Together: A Ritual for Community.'

Jon's liturgy involves using sticks in a ritual which builds a sense of community and encourages cohesiveness together.





## **Janz Kidz Art is running this school holidays at Wesley Castle Hill!**

Classes for children aged 5 years old and over will be running on

- Thursday 2nd October
- Wednesday 8th October
- Time: from 10am to 12pm

**at Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church  
32 Showground Road, Castle Hill.**

The class on 2nd October will focus on drawing, whereas the class on 8th October will be a painting class.

Cost is \$25 per child and RSVPs to Jan are essential.

We hope to see you there! Contact Wesley Castle Hill for Jan's contact details

Phone: (02) 9894 8999 Email: [admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au](mailto:admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au)



Please come along for a little while or the whole time. Many hands make light work and would be most appreciated.

The property committee will be holding the next working bee over 2 days to make it easier for volunteers to attend.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
and  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**8.30am to 12noon  
Both days**

# *St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team*

How doing little things makes a big difference.

## **Topic: Drug Treatment – Overdose Awareness – Information from Uniting Fair Treatment**

After International Overdose Awareness Day on the 31st of August, we are reminded of the lives that have been lost and the urgent change still needed. A new report from the Penington Institute (link below) shows the shocking scale of Australia's overdose crisis:

More than six people die from overdose every single day in Australia.

2,272 people died in the last year alone – that's more than a Boeing 737 full of Australians each month.

While overdose deaths have declined in some age groups, they have risen dramatically among older Australians – increasing by 179% for people aged 60–69 and an alarming 305% for those aged 50–59.

The overdose rate for First Nations Australians is more than 3.5 times that of non-First Nations people.

80% of these deaths are accidental.

This marks the tenth year in a row that overdose deaths have exceeded 2,000 - and for the 16th straight year, more lives have been lost to overdose than on our roads. These are parents, partners, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. Each of them loved. Each of them preventable.

At the time of writing this article, the NSW Government is yet to respond formally to the recommendations of the 2024 Drug Summit. What can we do? We can contact our local state members of parliament to express our concerns that the recommendations need to be implemented urgently.

### **Further reading:**

Uniting Social Justice Lead, Alex Hogan, published an op-ed in the Newcastle Herald about overdose statistics in the Hunter region. Link to the online version:

<https://www.uniting.org/blog-newsroom/newsroom/opeds/overdose-numbers-a-national-disgrace-in-hunter>

Sydney Morning Herald- [Drug overdoses spike in those over 40, shows new data](#)

The Conversation- [New data shows a jump in older people dying from drug overdoses](#)

The Illawarra Mercury- [Drug overdose deaths spark calls for national action](#)

Link to the Penington Institute website: <https://www.penington.org.au/more-middle-age-and-older-australians-dying-from-drug-overdoses-new-figures-from-the-penington-institute-reveal>

*Blessings,  
Alexander  
Social Action Missional Ministry Team (SAMMT)*

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St Matthew's  
email Alexander on [alexander.lawless7@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.lawless7@gmail.com)

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th October 2025 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall





# *Celebrating 50 Years*

## *St. Matthew's Uniting Church & Preschool's 50th Anniversary*

*Celebrate with us in November 2025!!*

### **THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

**9 NOVEMBER 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**FOLLOWED BY  
MORNING TEA**

**BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE**

**GUEST PREACHER  
REV NICHOLAS FRIED**

### **PICNIC LUNCH**

**9 NOVEMBER 2025**

**FROM 11:00 AM**

**JOHN CURTIN RESERVE  
HUXLEY DR WINSTON HILLS**

**BBQ AND KITCHEN FACILITIES AVAILABLE  
BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**

**FOLLOWED BY GAMES AND  
T10 CRICKET MATCH**

### **GAMES NIGHT**

**PLUS TRIVIA AND OPEN MIC**

**INCLUDES DINNER**

**15 NOVEMBER 2025**

**FROM 4:30 PM**

**TICKETS**

**\$ 20 ADULTS**

**\$40 FAMILIES**

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE  
OR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES**

**COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN  
SHARE FOOD STORIES AND GAMES**

### **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE (CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL)**

**23 NOVEMBER 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA**

**BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE  
AND BBQ LUNCH - DONATION**

**SHARE WORSHIP FOOD AND STORIES**

**A SHOWCASE OF CHURCH AND  
PRESCHOOL HISTORY ON DISPLAY**

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF PLANNING TO  
ATTEND FOR CATERING (02) 9686 3003**



st. matthew's  
UNITING CHURCH  
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# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH  
AND PRESCHOOL'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!**

## PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED

IF YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OR STORIES FROM ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FROM THE LAST TEN (10) IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPIES THAT WE CAN INCLUDE IN OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWCASE TO BE PRESENTED DURING NOVEMBER'S CELEBRATIONS. IN PARTICULAR WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES:

- DIRK VAN DOORENE CLOSURE OF MINISTRY SERVICE & MORNING TEA
- JON HUMPHRIES INDUCTION SERVICE
- ACTIVITIES & EVENTS DURING COVID
- VARIOUS CHURCH GROUPS ACTIVITIES AND PEOPLE
- SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES AND MORNING TEAS
- ANY OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS OF ST MATTHEWS (LAST 50 YRS)
- SHORT STORIES IN THE LIFE OF ST MATTHEWS (LAST 10 YRS)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA TO CONTRIBUTE,  
PLEASE SEE GREG GIBB OR CALL HIM ON HIS MOBILE 0414 764 437**



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UNITING CHURCH  
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growing together

# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH  
AND PRESCHOOL'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025**

SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR PERFORMANCE 2:00 PM

**SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025**

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 6:45 PM

**SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025**

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE – FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA 9:00 AM

PICNIC LUNCH AT JOHN CURTIN RESERVE WINSTON HILLS FROM 11:00 AM

**SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025**

SOCIAL EVENTS AT CHURCH

- DINNER, OPEN MIC & GAMES NIGHT FROM 5:30 PM  
(SHARE FOOD, STORIES & GAMES)

**SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025**

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 6:45 PM

**SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025**

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - CHURCH & PRESCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM

- CHURCH & PRESCHOOL SHOWCASE (AFTER WORSHIP)
- MUNCH (SHARE FOOD & STORIES) (AFTER WORSHIP)
- YOUTH SERVICE (INCL SHINE CELEBRATIONS) 6:45 PM